

# THE LEADING EDGE

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**A PUBLICATION DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING YIELD POTENTIAL**

## **Traditional Tool In Untraditional Role**

### **ROTARY HOES ALLOW EARLIER PLANTING IN WET FIELDS AND IMPROVE SEED ENVIRONMENT**

Traditionally, Rotary Hoes aren't hooked on until after planting. But producers like Les Seiler find that Yetter Min-Till Rotary Hoes can boost productivity before planting, too.



Les Seiler's Rotary Hoe in action

To counter the cool, wet spring soils that can delay no-till planting, some producers are investing in expensive roller harrows – a single purpose tool that re-distributes residue and cracks the soil surface to speed drying. But Seiler – who farms near Fayette, Ohio – says he gets the same benefits from the Rotary Hoe. “I’ve no-tilled for a long time and looked for a way to manage the heavy mat of residue in our corn ground. I tested a roller harrow and compared the results to that of the Yetter rotary Hoe. I like the Rotary Hoe better. It does a great job of lifting and redistributing the residue, but it doesn’t break off and level the down standing stalks.”

“The rotary harrow,” Seiler adds, “levels all the residue, which makes it more difficult for the residue managers to handle during planting. The ground we worked with the Rotary Hoe had no problems, and it did a fine job of getting the soils ready to plant sooner.”

According to Don Bunnell of Yetter Manufacturing, the Rotary Hoe picks up and redistributes residue – even wet, packed stalks – to speed up drying, without burying any of it. He says, “By fluffing up the old residue, warm spring air can reach the surface where it helps dry that residue and warm the soil. You get many of the benefits of traditional spring tillage without the problems.”

“The rotary hoe is an ideal tool for no-tillers” says Bunnell. “It is a high speed tool that can help them get to the field sooner. Because it only penetrates a fraction of an inch it doesn’t pull up wet soil, thus there is no clodding. You can hoe a field days before you could get in with a cultivator. More importantly, the Rotary Hoe preserves soil moisture down in the seed zone.”

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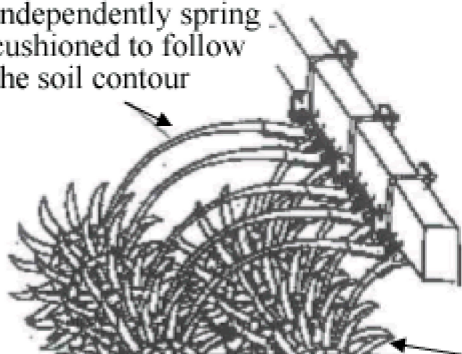
The Min-Till Rotary Hoe may also contribute to improved weed control. Bunnell says some producers report that fewer broadleaves come up in no-till crops after rotary hoeing, which is a substantial additional benefit.

Seiler also believes in using the rotary hoe to improve emergence. “I strip till my corn and use the Rotary Hoe when seeds need a little extra help germination. I also run it over my soybean ground when soils crust over.”

“Farmers need ways to manage input costs,” says Bunnell. “Everyone knows they need a Rotary Hoe sometimes to improve germination in crusty soils and for early weed control. But by using the Rotary Hoe as a pre-plant tool that helps speed planting and improve germinating, producers can double their return on investment.”

#### How the min till Hoe works:

Each cast arm is independently spring cushioned to follow the soil contour



Longer rear arms space the ground driven wheels further apart for more clearance to prevent plugging with crop residue. In addition optional guards are available to clean the wheel on each revolution.

Ground speed determines how

Extends distance between

Spoon bill teeth fluff up damp, matted residue for improved aeration

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